

Message Text

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15

ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 /018 R

DRAFTED BY COM/BIC/OED/MEPD/TJASPER/CF

APPROVED BY EB/OCA/REP/LAKLIEFORTH

COM/BIC/OED/MEPD/CATKINS

COM/BIC/OED/MEPD/JMSANDS, DIR.

COM/BIC/OIM (INFO)

STATE/ARA/EP/WCLARK (PHONE)

----- 001345

R 310211Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY QUITO

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

UNCLAS STATE 127224

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, EC

SUBJECT: NON FERROUS METALS PLANT

REF: QUITO 2294

1. CHASE BRASS AND COPPER (SUBSIDIARY OF KENNECOTT COPPER) HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SUBJECT PROJECT. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF POINTS, HOWEVER, ON WHICH THEY WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION PRIOR TO THEIR INITIAL CONTACT WITH GOE.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ON A PROJECT OF THIS MAGNITUDE (1,00-1,500 TONS/YEAR) IT WOULD NOT BE ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE TO SMELT THE COPPER. A MILL OF THIS SIZE NORMALLY PURCHASES COPPER CATHODES TO MANUFACTURE THE END PRODUCT. WE PRESUME THEREFORE THAT EITHER THE ORDER OF MAGNITUDE IS INCORRECT OR THE TENDER DOCUMENTS WERE UNCLEAR REGARDING WHO HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SMELTING THE ORE.
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3. A SECOND POINT, WHICH RELATES INDIRECTLY TO THE SIZE OF THE FACILITY IS ITS DESIGN CHARACTERISTICS. COPPER TUBING DOES NOT CORRESPOND TO ZINC AND COPPER FOIL AS IT REQUIRES AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT PROCESS. FOIL MUST

GO THROUGH A PROCESS WHERE THE COPPER CATHODES ARE
ROLLED TO A DESIRED THICKNESS. THIS REQUIRES A
MAJOR INVESTMENT IN HOT AND COLD ROLLING MILLS.
THE FLAT COPPER PRODUCT NORMALLY IS NOT RE-FORMED
TO PRODUCE COPPER TUBING. COPPER TUBING IS
PRODUCED BY FEEDING THE COPPER CATHODES INTO A
TUBE MILL. FUTHERMORE WE UNDERSTAND EVEN A SMALL
ROLLING OR TUBE MILL COULD PRODUCE 1,000 TO 1500
TONS OF FINISHED PRODUCT IN A CONSIDERABLE SHORTER
PERIOD THEN ONE YEAR.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY FOLLOW-UP ON THESE
POINTS WITH APPROPRIATE GOE AUTHORITIES. WE WOULD

ALSO BE INTERESTED IN GOE PLANS FOR UTILIZING THE
END PRODUCT. INGERSOLL

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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